



# City Administrator's Report

March 2003

## Key meetings/conferences:

March 4, 18, 25	Council meetings
April 2	Advisory Group Members Procedures Review

## Community Events:

March 1-9	International Film Festival
March 1-11	International Film Festival Flags on State Street
March 11-25	Navy League Flags on State Street
March 25 - April 1	Whale Festival Flags on State Street
March 29	Cesar Chavez Festival and Exhibit - Ortega Park
March 29 and 30	Whale Festival - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (State Street between the Train Station and Stearns Wharf)

## Budget Calendar:

March 3-31	Production of Proposed FY 04-05 Financial Plan
March 3-31	Review Management Performance Contract format

## **City Administrator**

### **George Gerth 1947-2003**

During his eighteen years with the City, George Gerth was involved with many projects - parking and parking garages, synchronized traffic signals, and the Five Points and Milpas Street Roundabouts, among others. With his candidness and upbeat personality, he excelled in his public information role. George made many friends within and outside of the City organization and will be greatly missed. We extend our sincerest sympathy to the Gerth family.

### **City adopts legislative platform**

The City Council adopted a legislative platform that will serve as the foundation to support/oppose State and Federal legislation. As part of the strategy, the Council established and appointed Dr. Dan Secord, Iya Falcone, and Roger Horton, to serve on the Committee on Legislation to oversee our legislative efforts. Additionally, the City will meet with State and federal legislators to discuss issues of citywide importance. For more information, contact Don Olson, City Special Projects Manager, at 564-5312.

### **Performance Management Program progressing**

As part of the performance management program for City operations, the FY 2004 City Budget will include objectives and performance measures for each program. The purpose of the program is to measure City services, focus on improvements to meet program objectives, and develop a culture of constant improvement to deliver cost-effective, quality services to the public.

### **City TV - Inside Santa Barbara**

The March episode of *Inside Santa Barbara* begins with a look at the Santa Ynez River Water Rights Settlement and what it means to the South Coast Water Districts. Next, find out how local youth are working with Looking Good Santa Barbara to help keep neighborhood streets clean. Then learn what it's like to live aboard your boat at the Santa Barbara harbor. Also this month, we'll take you to the Harding Elementary School After-School Activity Center. And finally, find out about a new program in Santa Barbara called the Belle of the Ball.

This edition of *Inside Santa Barbara* will premiere on Saturday, March 8 at 9:00 p.m. on CITY-TV, Channel 18. It is replayed each week on Monday at 8:00 p.m., Tuesday at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., Saturday at 9:00 p.m., and Sunday at 10:30 p.m. A new episode airs the beginning of each month.

## **Airport**

### **"Centennial of Flight" activities in honor of Wright Brothers**

The Airport will hold events to commemorate the "Centennial of Flight" in honor of the Wright Brothers historic flight. Celebration activities include a *Youth Aviation Art Contest* (April), B17 WWII Aircraft visit (May), banners at the Airline Terminal (June) and a *History of the Santa Barbara Airport* special on Channel 18 (July). For more information visit the Centennial of Flight link on the Airport's website: [www.flysba.com](http://www.flysba.com).

### **Private aircraft owners surveyed**

An independent telephone survey of owners of private aircraft based at SBA was conducted last month to determine customer satisfaction with services and facilities offered by the Airport and general aviation businesses. The survey findings will be used to plan improvements; a final report is expected in the spring.

### **Mercury Air Center adds to Airport leasehold**

Ampersand Aviation subleased 39,010 square feet of hangar and adjacent ramp space to Mercury Air Center, a fixed based operator at SBA, for Mercury's corporate customers. Mercury has been a tenant at the Airport since 1981 providing general aviation services and fuel for commercial aircraft.

## **Community Development**

### **Affordable housing projects receive green light on funding**

The Redevelopment Agency approved funds to develop the 170-unit St. Vincent's family and senior development, and the 20-unit South Voluntario Street Housing Authority family development affordable housing projects. Funding from the Redevelopment Agency's Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund totals approximately \$11.6 million. The St. Vincent's development includes \$2.5 million from the County of Santa Barbara and \$11 million from the federal government. The South Voluntario development includes \$1 million previously provided by the Redevelopment Agency and the City to acquire the properties and \$900,000 in federal and Housing Authority funds.

### **March 13 Planning Commission hearing on creek development standards**

A draft Creek Development Standards (CDS) Report is now available for public review. A public meeting to discuss creek conditions and proposed creek development standards was held on March 5. On March 13, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, the Planning

Commission will hold a public hearing and consider the recommendations prior to referring the matter to the City Council to consider at a date yet to be determined. For more information contact Debra Andaloro, Project Planner, at 564-5470.

### **Housing Element update hearings set to begin**

On March 20, staff will present to the Planning Commission, a review of existing housing programs and policies. This is the first in a series of presentations to review the required sections of the Housing Element that will culminate with a review of proposed new Goals and Policies in May. The Council will review the entire draft Element in June, prior to sending it to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for approval. For more information contact Liz Limón, Project Planner, at 564-5470.

### **Housing, creeks, and dogs at Planning Commission**

The Planning Commission will be busy in March. In addition to discussions of the Creek Policy Update and beginning the Housing Element Update, the following major items will be heard by the Commission in March.

- **Laguna Court** - On March 6, the Commission will hold a work session with the applicant for this 12-unit condominium project in the 1400 block of Laguna Street, part of an area becoming known as the "bungalow district." The session will focus on ways to design the project for greater consistency with the neighborhood, more pedestrian orientation, number of bedrooms, and a mix of unit square footages.
- **Veronica Meadows** - On March 6, the Commission will hold a work session with the applicant for a 51-acre annexation in Las Positas Valley, mostly between the Campanil Hill area and Arroyo Burro Creek on the east and west and between Stonecreek Condominiums and Alan Road on the north and south. Approximately 35 acres of the property is on the steep hillside of Campanil Hill and is not proposed for development. About 28 units have been proposed on the rest of the property. Issues to be discussed include site constraints, access, the number and types of affordable units, geology, and creek setbacks.
- **Douglas Family Preserve Management Plan and Off Leash Dog Locations Study Draft Environmental Impact Report** - This draft EIR was released for public review on February 28 with comments due by April 14. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing, with an opportunity for the public to comment, on April 3.

### **Waterfront amendments to the Coastal Commission in April**

At their April meeting in Santa Barbara, the California Coastal Commission will hear the City's request to amend the certified Local Coastal Program in the Waterfront area. The amendments would prohibit new hotel and related visitor serving uses in the interior portions of the Waterfront and instead allow ocean-dependent, ocean-oriented, and arts-related uses. Commercial-recreational uses would continue to be allowed, as well as residential uses in the sub-area between the railroad tracks and the freeway. For more information contact John Ledbetter, Principal Planner, at 564-5470.

## Finance

### Update on Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)

The TOT for January is up approximately 14% from the prior fiscal year, FY 2002. It is encouraging that we are actually slightly above the FY 2001 level, which was the strongest year ever for TOT. TOT is budgeted for a 2% growth rate this fiscal year and our year-to-date actual growth rate is approximately 4%.

	<b>FY2001</b>	<b>Incr/Decr FY00-FY01</b>	<b>FY2002</b>	<b>Incr/Decr FY01-FY02</b>	<b>FY2003</b>	<b>Incr/Decr FY02-FY03</b>
<b>July</b>	\$1,204,593	11.3%	\$1,171,041	-2.8%	\$1,183,951	1.1%
<b>Aug</b>	\$1,246,973	7.9%	\$1,276,212	2.3%	\$1,328,278	4.1%
<b>Sept</b>	\$952,314	14.2%	\$808,657	-15.1%	\$849,174	5.0%
<b>Oct</b>	\$839,946	3.7%	\$790,919	-5.8%	\$830,054	4.9%
<b>Nov</b>	\$691,398	13.2%	\$653,829	-5.4%	\$684,776	4.7%
<b>Dec</b>	\$594,145	16.2%	\$539,598	-9.2%	\$529,694	-1.8%
<b>Jan</b>	<b>\$578,703</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>\$511,090</b>	<b>-11.7%</b>	<b>\$583,338</b>	<b>14.1%</b>

### Budget update

Work continues on the City Administrator's Recommended FY 2004 Operating and Capital Budget. The recommended budget will be submitted to the City Council and available for public review in early April. While there are a number of proposals under consideration, there is no clear direction on the State budget. Although various proposals to safeguard the vehicle license fee (VLF) are being discussed (otherwise a potential loss on ~\$4 million to our City) there is still a possibility the State will cut or take away funds from local government to deal with the State Deficit, currently at \$34.6 billion.

## Fire

### Roadside clearance begins in April

In April, the Fire Department will start clearing approximately nine miles of Riviera roadways to improve fire safety, visibility, and accessibility. The work is expected to be completed in June.

### New Hazardous Materials Unit on display

The City's new Hazardous Materials Unit has arrived and will be on display March 12, at De la Guerra Plaza during the Mayor's State of the City address.

### Service award

Our City's first female Firefighter received her 25-year service pin from Mayor Marty Blum on March 4. Lisa Moreno started with the Fire Department on March 20, 1978.

### Fire Safety House" tour City schools

Next month the Fire Department's Fire Safety House will visit all third grade classes in City schools and pass along valuable home and school fire safety information brochures in English and Spanish. The brochures "Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit" and "Your Family Disaster Plan," are available at your local fire station.

**Reminder from the Fire Department**

The Fire Department reminds you to change the batteries in your smoke detectors on April 6, the beginning of Daylight Savings Time.

**Library****"Poetry Unplugged"**

The Third Annual Teen Poetry Contest, "Poetry Unplugged," is in progress. All Library branches have contest entry forms and details. Poems submitted will be judged in late March and the winning works will be featured in The Independent. A teen poetry reading by the contest winners will take place during Young People's Poetry Week on April 17 at the Faulkner Gallery at 7:00 p.m. Also this month local poet Sojourner Rolle will host poetry workshops for teens and children at the Eastside Branch Library. For more information contact Janice Rorick at 564-5621.

**Planning for expanded library in Santa Ynez Valley**

County Third District Supervisor Gail Marshall is meeting with Santa Ynez Valley residents, City of Solvang staff, and Library Administration to develop plans to improve library services in the valley. The goals are to enlarge the existing branch facility, allocate additional space for children's activities, to add computers and audio/visual collection materials, and to secure ongoing funds for increased costs of operations. Supervisor Marshall will lead a series of meetings to develop plans to reach these goals.

**Parks and Recreation****Santa Barbara Golf Club driving range improvements**

Improvement to address safety concerns and enhance the driving range at the Santa Barbara Golf Club, is underway with an April completion date. Recent improvements include re-orienting the hitting stalls now with affixed hitting mats toward the center of the range, adding six "irons-only" hitting stalls, installing fencing, and creating an irrigated all-turf driving range area.

**Police****Officer involved in shooting**

On February 26 at 5:50 p.m., Officer Ruben Lino and Officer Casey Thomas responded to a call of a domestic disturbance at 525 West Pedregosa Street. Upon arrival they were confronted by a 31-year-old former boyfriend of a resident. The officers were assaulted with a thrown bottle and threatened with other weapons. In the course of the incident, the suspect received a single gunshot wound to his upper torso. He was booked at the Santa Barbara County Jail for two counts of assaulting a police officer with a deadly weapon and one count of violently resisting arrest. All the charges are felonies.

**Car burglar seeks escape by locking himself in the car he burglarized**

On February 24, at 9:31 p.m., a man saw someone in his car parked in the 300 block of West De la Guerra Street. The man confronted the suspect, who locked himself in the victim's car. Officer Morton arrived and took custody of the suspect. The suspect was found in possession of property from two cars, and was arrested for burglary and theft from an auto.

**Where's the beef?**

Scolari's Grocery Store security personnel noticed a trim man (5-11, 165 lbs) enter the business at 222 North Milpas Street. After browsing the meat department, he left the store looking considerably beefier at 185 lbs. The suspect, age 52, was detained along with a twenty pound beef roast valued at \$78. Officer Fred Velasco investigated and discovered the suspect to be under the influence of heroin and carrying a loaded syringe in his pocket. The suspect theft was booked for theft with priors, being under the influence of heroin, and drug possession.

**Public Works****Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Creek Rehabilitation Project final design**

The City completed final agreements for the Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with the final design of the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control project. The design phase, which begins this month, is expected to last two years, with plans to begin construction in 2006.

**Mission Creek Fish Passage Study**

The City and the Army Corps of Engineers are completing a study to assess ways to make it easier for fish to swim upstream and improve the creek environment along the concrete channel  $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile stretch of Mission Creek just north of Carrillo Street. The plan is subject to review and approval by the Creeks Advisory Committee and the City Council.

**Neighborhood Traffic Management**

Dan Burden, Executive Director of Walkable Communities, recently conducted a traffic calming and walkable communities workshop for City Staff in preparation for the March 14-16 traffic calming charrette, which he will facilitate in the neighborhood near St. Francis Hospital. With the Before Traffic Calming Components of the Pilot Project complete, it is anticipated that traffic calming features will be a prominent feature of the Neighborhood Area Mobility Plan. For more information, contact Drusilla van Hengel, Mobility Coordinator, at 564-5544 or [dvanhengel@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:dvanhengel@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us).

**Rinse & Save – a free water conservation program for Santa Barbara restaurants**

When restaurant kitchen workers rinse dirty dishes, hundreds of gallons of hot water per day are used. By replacing the old spray pre-rinse valve with an efficient, high-velocity pre-rinse spray valve, up to 300 gallons of water and 2 therms of gas per day is saved. Through Rinse & Save, an innovative door-to-door installation program, restaurants in the City have an opportunity to receive a new, efficient pre-rinse spray valve at no cost. Each replaced valve will save approximately one acre foot (326,000 gallons) of water over five years. The Rinse & Save Program is sponsored by the City, the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Urban Water Conservation Council, and eight other participating California water agencies. For more information, contact Alison Jordan, Water Resources Specialist, at 564-5574 or [ajordan@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:ajordan@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us).

**Engineer of the Year awarded to Pat Kelly**

Pat Kelly, Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer, was given the Engineer of the Year award by the American Society of Civil Engineers, Santa Barbara/Ventura County Chapter. The award was given in recognition of his leading several significant City engineering efforts.

## Waterfront

### **Santa Barbara Whale Festival - March 29 and 30**

The Santa Barbara Whale Festival celebrates its ninth year on March 29 and 30. The event is sponsored by the Beachside Business Association and the Stearns Wharf Business Association. Proceeds benefit the Santa Barbara Marine Mammal Center and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. The City of Santa Barbara continues its support by coordinating several events on Stearns Wharf including the "Duck Races" fund-raiser, the SBCC Deep Sea Divers' demonstration, the Harbor Patrol display, the inflatable fun-jumper for kids, and a helicopter rescue demonstration by the United States Coast Guard. For more information call 897-3187 or visit [www.sbwhalefestival.com](http://www.sbwhalefestival.com)

## Current Job Openings

### **Open Recruitments**

Senior Control Systems Operator Specialist	Recently approved	3/28/03
Senior Office Specialist	Continuous	
Office Specialist II	Continuous	

### **Promotional Recruitments**

Executive Secretary	Recently approved	3/26/03
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### **Receive your report electronically**

We can save paper, time, and costs if you receive an electronic version of this report in lieu of a hard copy. If you can receive it electronically, please email Mindy Jackson at [mjackson@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:mjackson@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us).

We urge you to contact us with your comments and suggestions.

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